

REMARKS

Claims 3-5 and 12-25 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2 and 6-11 have been canceled. Claims 13-25 have been newly entered. Claims 3-5 and 12 are currently amended. No new matter has been entered as a result of the present amendments.

Claims 3-5 and 12-25 are in condition for allowance. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, first paragraph

Claim 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains.

Claims 1, 2 and 6-11 are canceled and all rejections directed thereto are moot. Claims 3-5 and 12 ultimately depend from newly entered independent claim 13. All issues related to 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, have been rendered moot by amendment.

Removal of the rejection of remaining claims 3-5 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is proper and respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, second paragraph

Claim 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 2 and 6-11 are canceled and all rejections directed thereto are moot. Claims 3-5 and 12 now ultimately depend from claim 13. Claim 12 has been amended and all rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. 101 are rendered moot by the amendment.

Removal of the rejection of remaining claims 3-5 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is proper and respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-6 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 98/50436.

WO '436 is directed to the use of cobalt complexes as chain transfer agents. The present invention utilizes a dimer as the chain transfer agent. WO '436 fails to teach, among other things, the dimer of the claimed invention.

The rejection of remaining claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is improper due to the failure of WO '436 to teach at least one element of the claimed invention. Removal of the rejection of claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is proper and respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 96/15158. Claims 1, 2 and 6-11 have been canceled and all rejections directed thereto are moot.

Claims 3-5 and 12 ultimately depend from claim 13. WO '158 fails to teach the dimers of the present invention and therefore a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is improper.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 3-5 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 8 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Huybrechts (U.S. 6,174,953).

Claims 1 and 8 are canceled and all rejections directed thereto are moot.

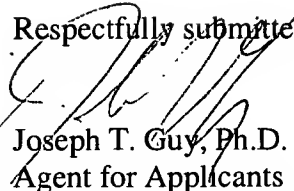
Claim 12 depends from claim 13. Huybrechts fails to teach, at least, the dimers of the claimed invention. A rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Huybrechts is improper.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSIONS

Claims 3-5 and 12-25 are pending in the present application. All claims are in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance for claims 3-5 and 12-25 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph T. Guy, Ph.D.

✓ Agent for Applicants

Registration Number 35,172

NEXSEN PRUET JACOBS & POLLARD, LLC

P.O. Box 10648

Greenville, SC 29603

Telephone: 864-370-2211

Facsimile: 864-282-1177

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